

Trunch Parish Council.

The Annual Governance and Accounts Return was approved by the Council at a brief meeting on the 2nd June.

The speed activated monitor SAM2 sign is now operational and speeds in excess of 30mph have been recorded together with the time of day/night the speed was exceeded.

A working party of Councillor volunteers have installed safety matting around the roundabout and under the large see saw on the playing field.

During the past month there have been a couple of issues raised on the social media Nextdoor Trunch concerning trees and footpaths.

We are fortunate in having a good number of trees within and around the village. Those trees within the highway boundaries and public land adjacent to the highway e.g Cornish Avenue (six wild cherry trees), Pyghtle Close (wild cherry, two rowans, goat willow, Swedish whitebeam, hornbeam and true service tree) and Mundesley Road are managed by and are the responsibility of Norfolk County Council. The trees within the Blacksmiths Close area are managed by Victory Housing Trust and those in Fullers Lane by the Broadland Housing Group. The Parish Council have a duty of care to report any damage, signs of distress or safety issues regarding these trees to these responsible bodies. The Council cannot authorise any felling of these trees. The glorious copper beech tree on the Green at the Hill is looked after by the Parish Council. All the trees (including oak, blackthorn, hawthorn, horse chestnut, birch, weeping willow, wild cherry and rowan) around the perimeter of the playing field are managed by and are the responsibility of the Parish Council. They are regularly inspected by a qualified tree surgeon or arboriculturist and the advice of the North Norfolk District Council is often sought. If any surgery work is recommended to these trees the Parish Council will make decisions based on physiological condition, safety of the public, likely transmission of disease, age and rate of deterioration of the structure of the tree. Residents are encouraged to attend Council meetings where such issues are considered.

The recent NCC arboriculturist report concerning trees at Cornish Avenue and Pyghtle Close are in the Reports section of the Parish Council web site.

There is about 4 miles of Public Rights of Way (footpaths, byways, bridle ways and restricted byways) in and around Trunch. The land over which the Public Right of Way runs is usually private land; the surface of the path is maintained by the Norfolk County Council highway authority but the subsoil remains the property of the landowner. Whilst the Council cut the grass it is the responsibility of landowners to keep the paths clear of obstructions and vegetation. As the County Council were only cutting twice a year it was agreed, several years ago, that due to pressure from residents the Parish Council would increase this to six cuts per season (April to September). The Parish Council now receive a contribution from NCC towards the cost of the maintenance. Due to the terrain of some of the footpaths it was found for practical reasons to maintain a minimum width of 1 metre for each cut; this includes the restricted byways and bridle ways. The Contractor works to this specification. Where footpaths are surfaced with tarmac (FP1, Paston Way and the path between North Walsham Road and the playing field) the Contractor strims the edges six times per season. If there is a need to widen the cut due to overhanging vegetation the Parish Council will have to revise the specification which will undoubtedly lead to an increase in the cost. The Parish Council are regularly requesting the support of the County Council to ensure landowners fulfil their obligations in respect of cutting back vegetation and hedges: this is difficult for landowners during the growing season due to the regulations concerning disturbance of nesting birds and natural habitats. In the spirit of compromise where footpaths cross open cultivated fields with growing crops the farmers do provide tracks for walkers. Whilst regulations stipulate a width of 1 metre for paths that cross cultivated land, the tracks do indicate the line of the footpath on the ground such that the width is apparent to members of the public wishing to use it. This has not been reported to the Parish Council as an inconvenience.

Our monthly meetings cover many items which I am unable to report here so please visit our web site

www.trunchparishcouncil.co.uk to view a full set of the Minutes, details of our Finances and various Documents.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Community Room. A Parish Council page also features on the Village web site www.trunch-norfolk.co.uk

Brian Boughton – Chairman

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